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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/574,147	03/29/2006	Guy Jozef Maria Dekkers	NL031218US1	3775
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EXAMINER QUARTERMAN, KEVIN J				
ART UNIT 2889		PAPER NUMBER		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/574,147

Applicant(s)

DEKKERS ET AL.

Examiner

Kevin Quarterman

Art Unit

2889

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 December 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 8 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 March 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).
3. Claims 1-2 and 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gesellschaft (GB 476,836) in view of Olwert (EP 0,429,256).
4. Regarding independent claim 1, Figures 1 and 2 of Gesellschaft show a discharge lamp comprising an outer bulb (20) in which a discharge vessel (1) is arranged around a longitudinal axis, the discharge vessel enclosing, in a gastight manner, a discharge space provided with an ionizable filling, the discharge vessel having a first and a second mutually opposed portion forming a first and a second leadthrough through which a first (5) and a second (4) leadthrough conductor,

Art Unit: 2889

respectively, extend to a pair of electrodes (2, 3) arranged in the discharge space, a lamp base (8) of electrically insulating material supporting the discharge vessel via a first current supply conductor (18), and a second current supply conductor (17) electrically connected to the second leadthrough conductor forming a respective first and a second current path to the pair of electrodes, the lamp base also supporting the outer bulb, the outer bulb enclosing the first and second current supply conductors, the outer bulb being connected to the lamp base in a gas-tight manner, the lamp base being provided with first (26) and second (25) contact members connected electrically to the respective first and second current supply conductor.

5. Gesellschaft teaches the limitations of independent claim 1 discussed earlier but fails to exemplify the first current supply conductor having a weld with the first leadthrough conductor.

6. Olwert teaches, in the sole figure, that it is known in the art to provide a lamp with a first current supply conductor (26) having a weld (pg. 3, ln. 12-15) for with a first leadthrough (22) for forming a current path to the filament (14).

7. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the lamp of Gesellschaft with the first current supply conductor having the weld taught by Olwert for forming a current path the electrodes.

8. Regarding claim 2, Figure 1 of Gesellschaft shows the first current path having a first section extending from the first leadthrough along the longitudinal axis towards

the lamp base, a second section bended away extending effectively traverse to the longitudinal axis, and a third section extending towards the first contact member.

9. Regarding claim 8, the sole figure of Olwert shows the weld of the first current supply conductor with the first leadthrough conductor as a butt-weld.

10. Regarding claim 9, Gesellschaft teaches the limitations of claim 2 discussed earlier but fails to exemplify the first section having a length of at least 1mm.

11. Olwert teaches that it is known in the art to provide a discharge lamp with a current path having a first section with a length of at least 1mm (pg. 4, ln. 1-3). Olwert discloses this arrangement is provided for improving the resistance of the lamp to breaking under impact stress (pg. 2, ln. 1-2).

12. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the discharge lamp of Gesellschaft with the current path structure taught by Olwert for improving the resistance of the lamp to breaking under impact stress.

Allowable Subject Matter

13. Claims 3-7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

14. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Regarding claim 3, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests a high-pressure discharge lamp comprising, in addition to other limitations of the claim, the

Art Unit: 2889

second section of the first current path comprising two U-bends. Due to their dependency upon claim 3, claims 4-6 are also allowable.

15. Regarding claim 7, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests a high-pressure discharge lamp comprising, in addition to other limitations of the claim, the weld of the first current supply conductor with the first leadthrough conductor being in the third section of the first current path.

Response to Arguments

16. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Quarterman whose telephone number is (571)272-2461. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH (7-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Minh-Toan Ton can be reached on (571) 272-2303. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Kevin Quarterman
Examiner
Art Unit 2889

/Karabi Guharay/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2889

/K. Q./
Examiner, Art Unit 2889
3 February 2009